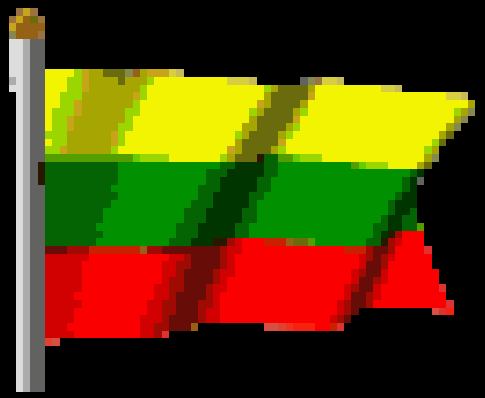
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING



LITHUANIA

(Lietuvos Respublika)

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Lithuania

Capital: Vilnius

Population: 3,584,966 (est)

Type of government: Parliamentary Dem

Head of government: Premier Gedimina

Official language(s) Lithuanian

Economy: Marked Economy

Religions: Roman Catholic (80%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None

International Airport: Rome

Flights from Frankfurt: Aero Lloyd, Alitalia

Other methods of arrival: Ship/road/rail

U.S. Embassy address:Akmenu 6, 2600 Vilnius.
Tel: 370-2-223-031; FAX: 370-2-227-225

Transportation: Public transportation: Good.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Availability of roadside assistance: Good.

Eric Bouvet/Liaison Agency

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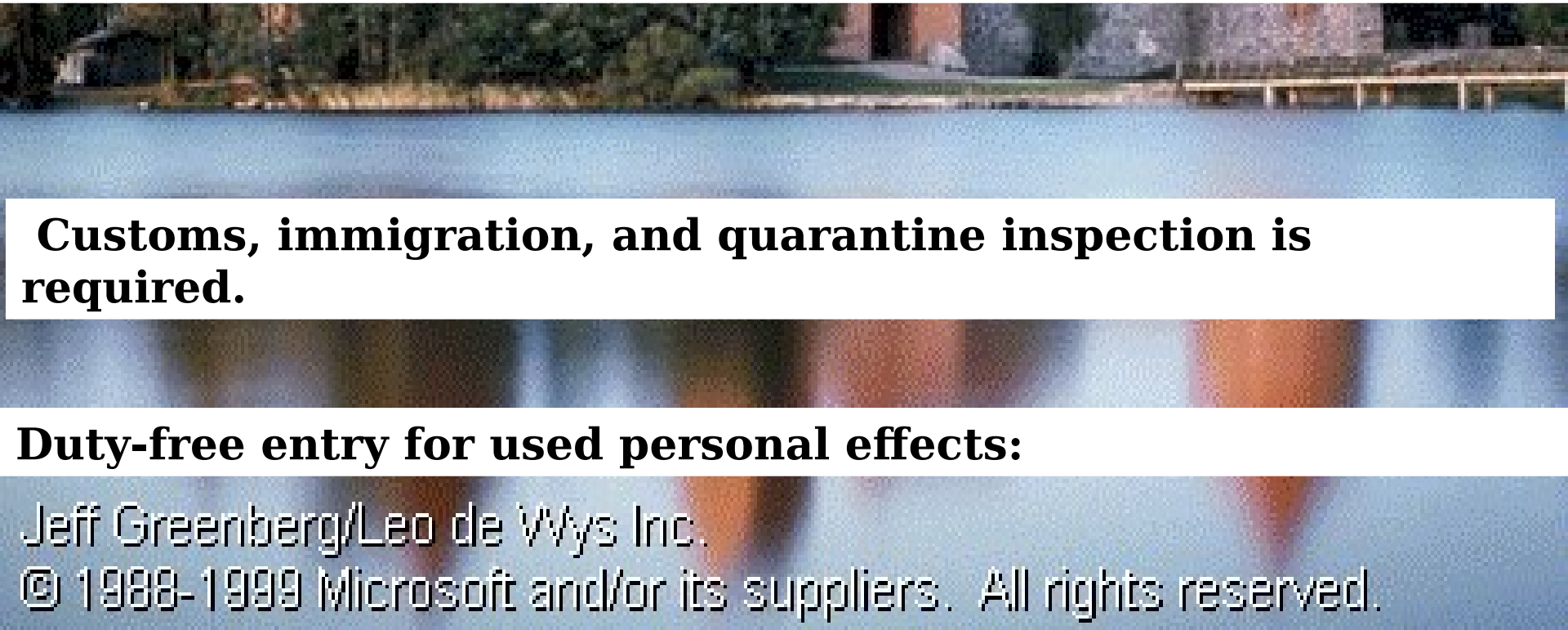
ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Military personnel on leave require passports. A visa is not required for stays of less than 90 days. Stays of 90 days or more require a visa. Visa should be obtained in advance but may be obtained in-country. All US personnel traveling in Lithuania should register with Amembassy. Passports are required. For official travel, a no-fee passport is required.



Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is required.

Duty-free entry for used personal effects:

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HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions: Lithuania is a country undergoing profound political and economic change. Tourist facilities are improving. Many goods and services are now available in the major cities, but may not be fully comparable to Western standards. The Russian Embassy in Vilnius will not issue visas for the Kaliningrad Region, Russia, to foreign travelers. Additionally, travelers intending to take a train to Poland from Vilnius must obtain a Belarusian Transit visa prior to travel. . Individuals should check with customs in-country (phone 222-265, 613- 027) before purchasing antiques and art for export. Amembassy duty hours are 0830-1730L Mon-Fri. Amembassy Vilnius communications center does not routinely operate beyond normal business hours.

Amembassy observes the following US and local holidays: 1, 13, and third Monday in Jan; 16 and second Monday in Feb; Easter Monday, variable; last Monday in May; 4, 6 Jul; last Monday in Sep; second Monday in Oct; 1, 11 and last Thursday in Nov; and 25 Dec.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Lithuania litai are the only legal currency. Lithuania is still primarily a cash economy, although an increasing number of hotels, restaurants, and other businesses now accept major credit cards. Credit cards and travelers checks are slowly starting to be accepted at major banks and hotels. Personal checks are never accepted. Because prices of goods and services are rising rapidly, travelers should check with host to insure they bring enough cash for all expenses in-country. There is no automatic teller machine in-country. Amembassy does not have a cashier function to cash checks or turn fund cites into cash for services. Value of currency and prices of services and goods have recently changed greatly.
Rate: Approximate: for $1.

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HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, and industrial pollution

Availability of medical services: Fair. Medical care in Lithuania is slowly improving. The Amembassy maintains a list of English-speaking physicians in the area. Bring medications for length of stay or arrange for mail order refills of

Medical Insurance: May not apply in Lithuania.

Status of hospitals: Good.

Health Precautions: Because of recent outbreaks of diptheria, personnel should keep immunizations current. Significant outbreaks of diphtheria occurred during the winter of 1993/94. Most medical supplies are now widely available, including disposable needles, anesthetics, antibiotics, and

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended).

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all military personnel traveling to Lithuania. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through G3/S3 channels.

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer or equivalent.

Water in Vilnius is potable. Bottled water should be consumed elsewhere. Roads in Lithuania range from two to six-lane highways connecting major cities, to small dirt roads traversing the countryside. Street lanes are not always clearly marked, and lighting is often poor. Drivers always must be alert to visible and hidden dangers on the roads, especially slow-moving horse carts or trucks traveling at night without taillights or reflectors. Dark-clothed pedestrians walking along unlit roads or darting across dimly lit streets or highways pose a risk to unsuspecting drivers. Winter driving can be especially hazardous because roads are not always plowed. Driving with caution is urged at all times.

CRIME

Criminal Activities: The crime rate is relatively low compared to other major European capitals. But street crime does occur. Travelers should exercise the same precautions with regard to their personal safety and belongings that they would practice in any major city in the United States. Muggings and purse snatchings generally take place at night when the victims are walking alone along dimly lit streets. Auto theft is common. Robberies have occurred on trains, in train stations and in hotel rooms. Police forces suffer from lack of manpower, resources and equipment. Local police are not likely to speak English, so it may be difficult to obtain police assistance. The loss or theft of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Lithuania is strict on: Drugs. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Lithuania are strict, and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and heavy fines.

WEATHER

http://cnn

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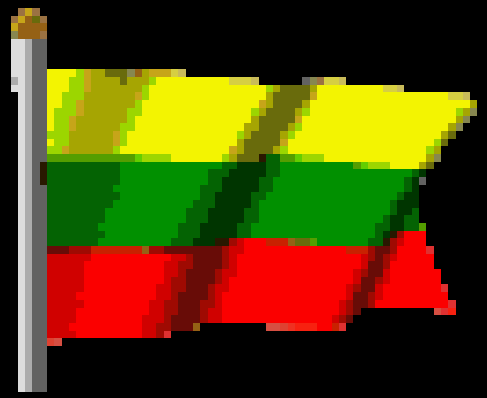
CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: Persons conducting official business in country are not restricted from wearing uniforms; check with host before traveling. Travel to and from Lithuania on commercial aircraft should be in civilian clothes per the Foreword, Section II, para H. Travel on military aircraft may be in uniform or civilian attire, according to requirements of service regulations, senior member of traveling party, or aircraft commander. Fall and winter-weight clothing is worn throughout the year. Winters are very cold and woolens are recommended. Furthermore, heat and hot water may not be available.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for



LITHUANIA